Income from railway freight

1412. SHRI JIBON ROY: *Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:*

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared on 27th September, 2000 in the Times of India, under the caption, "Rly. chug alongwith the load of catchwords";

(b) whether it is a fact that real income from railway freight collected during the first four months was below the budget projection; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Freight earnings of the Railways to end of July, 2000 is Rs.7725.27 crore which is Rs.64.94 crore more than the proportionate target of Rs.7660.33 crore for the period.

(c) Does not arise.

Commercial utilisation of railway property

1413. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS *be pleased to state:*

(a) whether the Railways utilise its property for commercial activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the landed properties owned by the Railways are leased out for constructing permanent structures;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount earned by Trivandrum Railways Division during the current year, from commerical utilisation of its property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Railways have, with a view to supplement its internal resources for implementing its development schemes, decided to utilise air-space over its properties, for commercial use.

To begin with, certain station buildings and vacant plots of land in prime areas have been identified for development as station-com-commercial complex or office or residential-cum-commercial complex where, after meeting

Railways requirements the additional floor space can be commercially used. Prelimiinary action like market study and shortlisting of developers has been undertaken.

(e) No property has yet been put to commercial use at Trivandrum Railway Division.

Train robberies

1414. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of trains robbery have been on the rise in the recent past;

(b) if so, how many incidents of train robbery took place since beginning of the year 2000 and railway divisions which are the most affected;

(c) what is the estimated amount of cash and valuables lost by the passengers;

(d) what are the details of train robberies solved so far; and

(e) what measures have been taken by Government to prevent such incidents and to protect the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the year 2000, 172 incidents of trains robberies took place. Mumbai, Bhopal, Solapur, Allahabad, Lucknow, Moradabad, Varanasi, Katihar, Alipurduar Junction, Adra, Bilaspur, Kharagpur and Chakradharpur are the most affected divisons.

(c) During the year 2000 (upto 31-10-2000), Rs.4135634/- worth cash and valuables were lost by the passengers.

(d) and (e) The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP), which functions under the control of the State Government concerned. Though the maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railway premises including Railway stations and running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, the Railway Administration co-ordinates with the State Governments for ensuring better security to the Railway passengers and their belongings. The following steps have been taken for improving the passenger safety;